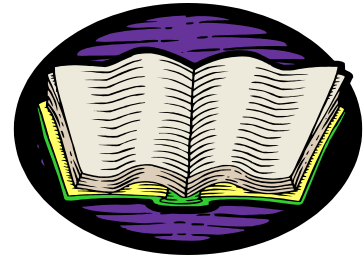


# West Side Stories

*A Publication for Neighborhood Watch Leaders in the  
Central and Dobson Patrol Districts*



Mesa Police  
Department  
Community Relations

## Fund-Raising Scams Surface

The holiday season is in full swing, and so are unscrupulous solicitors, who capitalize on their dirty work this time of year. This season in particular, Arizona's secretary of state and attorney general are issuing alerts about questionable fund-raising schemes to help victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

These groups, seeking to exploit the community's desire to support police and fire department victims, often use terminology in their titles similar to police and fire fighter associations. As an incentive for your donation, they are offering items such as "official police or fire decals," identification cards and window stickers for automobiles.

Don't be fooled by names that look impressive or that closely resemble the name of a well known organization.

It is important to do your homework when it comes to giving donations not only for this tragedy, but also for any organization that may be soliciting donations this season.

Remember, there are many legitimate charities and organizations seeking assistance that will provide you with detailed information about the charity upon request.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Be wary of any reluctance to answer questions. Ask for the charity's full name, address and phone number.

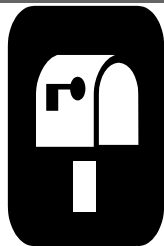
Do not give cash. Always make contributions by check payable to the charity, not the individual collecting the donation.

Ask if the charity is registered with the Secretary of State's Office. You can find those

who are registered at: [www.sos.state.az.us](http://www.sos.state.az.us).

Do not be pressured into giving money on the spot or allowing someone to come to your home for a pick-up of the contribution.

Consumers who feel they may have been victimized should call the Secretary of State's Office. Complaints may also be made to the Arizona Attorney General's Consumer Information and Complaint Division.



**2002 Stickers will be going out early next year! Please don't forget to send in attendance sheets immediately following your meeting/party. It is imperative that we have them to keep our records in order and to document that you have met the requirements of the Neighborhood Watch program. Attendance sheets can be faxed to 480-644-2800. Postage paid envelopes can be provided by calling 480-644-2300.**

**Volume 1, Issue 2  
Fall 2001**

### Secretary of State's Office

(602) 542-6187

1-800-458-5842

### Attorney General's

Consumer Information  
and Complaint Division

(602) 542-5763

### Inside this issue:

*Holly's Happenings* 2

*Frequently Called  
Numbers* 2

*Neighborhood  
Watch Updates* 2

*G.A.I.N. 2001* 3

*Calendar of Events* 3

*Block Watch Mulled  
Berry Cider* 3

*Alarm Unit* 4



Greetings again from the Mesa Police Department's Community Relations Unit! I hope all has been well for my block captains.

On Oct. 20 I had the opportunity, along with Central C.A.T. Officer Alex Sandoval, to visit eight G.A.I.N. parties. What a fun evening!

I also touched base with many of you on Aug. 23, when we had our last Central/Dobson District Neighborhood Watch Captain's Meeting. The topic of the evening focused on the police department's Community Action Teams. We talked about community policing, C.A.T. objectives and how C.A.T. officers can lend assistance in resolving a variety of neighborhood issues. There were recent changes to both district teams, so the meeting provided a great opportunity to meet and greet our newest C.A.T. officers.

Response to the meeting was tremendous! In fact, the response was so great, we were a standing room only crowd! This prompted me to decide to hold separate meetings for Central and Dobson captains. Hopefully, this will be more convenient for everyone involved. (Plus everyone should have a place to sit!) I hope attendance will remain high. If you have a friend who is interested in beginning a watch group, feel free to bring him or her along to our next meeting.

A special thanks to those who took the time to return the *West Side Stories* Survey. Overall, I had a very positive response. Everyone agreed that they would like to learn more about other Mesa Police Department Units in upcoming issues, so I will be sure to do that. As for recipes, 92% of the respondents would like a recipe published in each issue.

Most important, I'd like to implement other ideas suggested in the surveys. For example, a number of you would like to hear about successful block watch parties, gather new ideas to implement in your neighborhoods, see more published crime statistics and learn more about other block captains. I will try to include all of these things in future issues. Don't forget, you can get stats on your neighborhood at any time by calling me at (480) 644-2033.

On a final note, congratulations to Mary Mick, who was the first person to correctly respond to the K-9 Quiz published in the last issue. Mary won an insulated G.A.I.N. mug. Suzanne Levin-Weitz was the winner of the *West Side Stories* survey drawing. Suzanne won a free oil change from Gunnell Tires and Auto.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Remember, if you ever need assistance with your neighborhood watch, I'm just a phone call away!



## Important Phone Numbers

<b>Holly Hosac</b> . . . . .	644-2033
<i>Central/Dobson Neighborhood Watch Coordinator</i>	
Community Relations Unit .	644-2300
Community Relations FAX .	644-2800
Police Non-Emergency . . . .	644-2211
Silent Witness . . . . .	1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline . . . .	(602) 440-5081
Graffiti Hotline . . . . .	644-3083
Gang Hotline . . . . .	644-4264
Central Substation . . . . .	644-2229
Dobson Substation . . . . .	644-2614
Traffic Unit	



### *Neighborhood Watch Groups*

(as of November 1, 2001)

<b>Dobson</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>112</b>

## New and Reactivated Neighborhood Watch Areas

### *Third Quarter 2001 Central District*

- 1600 W. 4th Place
- 1600 W. 5th Place
- 1000 W. 10th Place
- 1400 N. Ashland
- 1300 N. Emerson
- 1100 W. Gary
- 800 W. Mountain View

- 1700 N. Nevada Way
- 1600—1700 N. Queensbury
- 1600 N. Revere
- 1600—1700 N. Markdale
- 800—900 W. Inglewood
- 900 W. Greenbriar
- 800—900 W. Indigo
- 1600—1700 N. Trevor
- 1600—1700 N. Old Colony

- 1600 N. Revere
- ### *Dobson District*
- 800 E. 10th Drive
  - 1700 W. Carmel
  - 1000 E. Hampton
  - 800—900 W. Kiva



## G.A.I.N. 2001: A Good Time for All

Great weather, good food, City of Mesa department staff, police units, city council members and state dignitaries were in abundance on October 20 for the city's third annual G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event.

The evening wouldn't have been a success, however, without its most important element—you! More than 150 Neighborhood Watch groups participated by hosting a party between 4 and 9 p.m. and however big or small, each group had one thing in common: *They were all promoting the Neighborhood Watch program in their respective neighborhoods.*

Again, G.A.I.N. wouldn't be a success without the time and talent dedicated to this endeavor by the many Neighborhood Watch Captains, Co-Captains and Assistants who participate.

Many Neighborhood Watch Captains began their G.A.I.N. party planning in September by attending the police department's official G.A.I.N. Kick Off, coordinated by Crime Prevention Specialist Lindy Marino.

This year, G.A.I.N. Kick Off was held on Sept. 13 at HoHoKam Stadium. The Community Relations Unit sent out more than 1,500 invitations, with approximately 400 in attendance.

Central District had 68 captains attend G.A.I.N. Kick Off. Dobson District had 30 captains present. While this is a small percentage of block captains from both districts, it was understandable, considering the tragic events of that week.

Those in attendance had an opportunity to win one of many door prizes that could be used for a G.A.I.N. party giveaway, mingle with police and city staff and enjoy the sampling of foods catered by the students of E.V.I.T.'s culinary school.

On Oct. 20, there were six parties in the Dobson District and 25 in Central. While many groups had potlucks and watched the Diamondback game, there were also Halloween parties, BBQ's, bicycle parades, hayrides and even live music! Next year, I hope that more captains will plan a party to correlate with G.A.I.N. It gives the police department a chance to come out to at least one of your neighborhood events to visit and have fun.

Remember, if you can get your neighbors involved in your block watch, we all "GAIN!"



## Calendar of Events

### December 12

**Dobson District Block Captain Open House**

**5 to 8 p.m.**

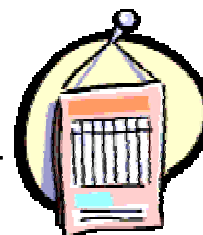
**Dobson Substation**

### December 13

**Central District Block Captain Open House**

**5 to 8 p.m.**

**Central Substation Community Room**



**Captains and Co-Captains:**

**Stop by your district's open house to restock Block Watch supplies for 2002!**

*"If you want to be free, there is but one way; it is to guarantee an equally full measure of liberty to all your neighbors. There is no other."*

## Block Watch Mulled Berry Cider

8 whole black peppercorns

6 whole allspice

6 whole cloves

2 cinnamon sticks (3 inches each)

4 quarts apple cider

2 quarts cranberry juice

Tie spices in cheesecloth, leaving a good length of string on end.

Pour cider and cranberry juice in a large pot. Add cheesecloth spice bag; let string hang over side of pot.

Bring to a boil slowly, then reduce heat and simmer, keeping the pot partially covered. Ladle out.

Yields 24 cups. This is a great drink to serve during a holiday neighborhood watch event!

\* A note to Neighborhood Watch Captains who don't like to cook: Go to Trader Joe's and pick up some Spiced Apple Cider. All you'll need to do is heat and serve—it tastes awesome!



**Mesa Police Department**  
**Community Relations Unit**  
130 North Robson Street  
Mesa, Arizona 85201-6697  
E-mail: holly\_hosac@ci.mesa.az.us

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## Frequently Asked Questions: City of Mesa's Alarm Department



**Question:** For my last Neighborhood Watch meeting, I asked for a copy of the police calls for service in my area. I noticed that our street had a lot of alarm calls. What exactly is an alarm call, and how are they tracked by the police department?

**Answer:** Many residents have long wondered what the City of Mesa's Alarm Department does and how this area of the police department affects their neighborhoods. Essentially, this department, part of Public Safety Communications, was designed to enforce City Code 6-15, which requires any homeowner or business with an alarm system to file a permit with the City of Mesa. The enforcement of this City Code includes, but is not limited to:

- Permit Issuance—Updates and Closing
- Fine Assessments
- Permit Revocations
- Citations of Non-Permitted Residences/Businesses
- Public Assistance with Alarm Company Issues
- Public Education of False Alarm Prevention

There are between 40 and 120 daily police department calls for service involving burglary alarms, panic alarms and armed robbery

alarms. In 2000, the Mesa Police Department responded to more than 21,000 alarm calls. To respond to these calls:

- 911 Operators and Dispatchers answer the call, dispatch it and do follow up calls as needed.
- One or more officers responds to the call.
- The helicopter may be dispatched.
- An officer writes a report, when warranted.
- Crime Scene Technicians respond as needed.
- The alarm office processes the daily calls, contacting the end user.
- Assessment letters are sent to the city's Finance Department and invoiced for billing.
- Alarm permits are mailed to customers without permits.

As you can see, many city resources are involved in responding to just one alarm call! This process, however, assures that alarm calls are handled quickly and courteously.

If you need an alarm user permit application or if you have questions about the City of Mesa Alarm Ordinance, call the Alarm Coordinator at 480-644-2699.